

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF STAN JONES, TULALIP TRIBES LEADER

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Stan Jones, Sr., Scho-Hallem, a former leader of Washington state's Tulalip Tribes who passed away this month at the age of 93.

Like many Native households during the 1930s, Stan grew up poor, often without access to running water or electricity. But Stan persevered, and made the brave decision to join the U.S. Marines Corps when he was 17-years-old. He served during World War II in the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division in the Pacific. He was sent to Nagasaki, Japan not long after the Atomic bomb was dropped on the city.

Upon returning home, Stan began his life's work improving the lives of his people. He served on the Tulalip Board of Directors for 44 years, including 26 years as Chairman.

Stan travelled across the country and the world representing Tulalip, teaching people about the rich history and culture of his tribe. During his time on the Board, Stan met with legislators, presidents, and foreign leaders to advocate on behalf of his people. His work helped his community to thrive and the tribal payroll grew from three to today's 3,500 employees during his tenure.

As his daughter Teri said, "Dad lived and breathed Tulalip." Stan was a pillar of the Tulalip community. His dedication and commitment to his people will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 550TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GURU NANAK

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak Dev and the contributions of Sikh Americans to the United States.

November 12, 2019, marked the 550th birth anniversary of the Founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev, and is celebrated worldwide as Guru Nanak's Gurburab.

Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world with around 30 million followers, one million of whom are in the United States. Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions, including service in the U.S. Armed Forces, agriculture, real estate, transportation, technology, small business, and medicine. In their efforts, Sikh Americans have made rich contributions to the economic, cultural, and social landscape of the United States and have strengthened our communities by fostering respect among all people through faith and service.

As a member of Congress, I remain committed to educating citizens about the value of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in the principles of the First Amendment, and a culture of mutual understanding and respect. We are a stronger nation and community when we embrace our diversity and afford all citizens the opportunity to better understand our many faiths and cultures.

Accordingly, this month let us recognize and appreciate the rich history and culture of Sikhs as they celebrate Gurburab.

CLOSING THE HOMEWORK GAP THROUGH MOBILE HOTSPOTS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, an estimated 12 million school-aged children lack broadband at home. 12 million students—this is a startling number. Before the internet became ubiquitous, students completed their homework with pencil and paper. This is no longer the case. Today, many students have homework that requires internet for research or to ask their teachers questions. If a student does not have that, they must find a venue that provides free Wi-Fi, like libraries, cafes, or other public venues.

Unfortunately, some of these locations are not conducive to a study environment. They may be noisy or have time restrictions on internet use at a computer kiosk. Furthermore, students, then must find transportation to and from such establishments, creating additional barriers to education for the students and their families. This is a modern-day travesty that must end.

That is why I am introducing the "Closing the Homework Gap Through Mobile Hotspots Act"—a bill that would create a \$100 million grant program for libraries, schools, the territories, and federally recognized Indian Tribes to build and sustain mobile hotspot programs to close the "homework gap."

Many schools and libraries have already created mobile hotspot programs to help students who do not have broadband at home. Essentially, students can "check-out" or borrow these mobile hotspots from their schools or local libraries for a set period of time. Funds for such programs, however, may lapse after a few years or when funding is eliminated. My bill will ensure this does not happen and our students have internet to complete their assignments.

Madam Speaker, the Closing the Homework Gap Through Mobile Hotspots Act is a critical bill that will help close the digital divide and address the homework gap. Every child deserves their best chance at pursuing education. For the sake of our children, I urge all my colleagues to support this timely, and necessary bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, as the only Greek woman in Congress, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope. This distinguished organization was founded on November 16, 1929, in San Francisco, with the mission of improving the well-being of Greek women and providing them with opportunities to make significant contributions to American society.

Over the past 90 years, Daughters of Penelope has grown into a leading international organization of women of Hellenic descent and Philhellenes, recognized and respected worldwide for its scholarship programs and public advocacy.

I commend this organization for promoting the ideals of ancient Greece: philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, good citizenship, and family and individual excellence. Their incredible work is seen in efforts to combat domestic violence in the United States and Greece, sponsorship of affordable and dignified housing for seniors, financial support for medical research and communities affected by natural disasters, contributions to Meals on Wheels, and support for the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at World Trade Center.

I am proud to work with them on these important issues and look forward to continuing our partnership to empower the next generation of female Hellenic leaders.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 737

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to make clear my opposition to H.R. 737, the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

Yesterday, when the House considered this deeply flawed legislation I spoke in opposition—to express my concerns about the devastating impacts the legislation will have on shark conservation efforts and responsible American fishermen. Many of these fishermen come from my own district in Florida and have made many sacrifices to rebuild and sustain our shark populations.

I am grateful to many of my colleagues who joined me in opposition to this measure after listening to my concerns. Regrettably, when the electronic vote was taken, I was recorded incorrectly. I want to make clear that I oppose this legislation and intended to vote NO.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN HONOR OF DR. DIETER MARTIN GRUEN

HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Dr. Dieter Martin Gruen's 97th birthday, in support of his nomination for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

On November 4th, my colleagues, Representative BILL FOSTER and Representative CHUCK FLEISCHMANN, joined me in supporting Dr. Gruen's nomination for the highest civilian award in this country. Dr. Gruen has dedicated his life to science and made monumental contributions to shaping the United States as a leader and world power in technology, innovation, and national defense.

For nearly eight decades, Dr. Gruen has worked to enhance American technology development as a former Manhattan Project Scientist and Argonne National Laboratory Distinguished Fellow. Born in 1922, Dr. Gruen is an internationally esteemed German-American chemist, inventor, and innovator who immigrated to the U.S. from Nazi Germany in 1936. Throughout his career, Dr. Gruen has been driven by his curiosity and commitment to science—allowing him to make critical contributions to nuclear fission and fusion, solar energy, energy storage, and conservation. Specifically, Dr. Gruen has made several key technological advancements such as the nuclear submarine reactor cooling design and purification of uranium used to end World War II in the Pacific theater.

Through this work and countless other selfless endeavors, Dr. Gruen has been recognized by the international scientific community with numerous awards—including from Argonne National Laboratory, Northwestern University, and the Patent Law Association of Chicago—for his pioneering research in chemistry, physics, along with the emerging fields of materials and nanoscience.

I had the great pleasure of sitting down with Dr. Gruen earlier this year at his home in Downers Grove. What was intended to be a thirty-minute meeting became a two-hour conversation where I heard countless stories about Dr. Gruen's work on the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the nuts and bolts of nuclear fission technology, and his unique journey to the United States. At 97, Dr. Gruen still sees the world as a place of vast opportunities for technological innovation. His optimism has been a source of inspiration and encouragement in my work as a Member of Congress as we tackle critical issues facing our society.

Dr. Gruen has continued his lifelong commitment to science by actively funding the building and demonstration of his novel solar cell technology in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago. For the reasons mentioned here and many more, I sincerely believe that Dr. Dieter Gruen should be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his lifelong contributions to science and technology that continue today. Dr. Gruen's tireless efforts to solve future energy challenges have seldom been exhibited by an individual. Humble and unpretentious, Dr. Gruen has been and remains the embodiment of a dedicated American and pure scientist.

I congratulate Dr. Gruen for his decades of accomplishments and exceptional contributions to science and the national security interests of the United States. I cannot think of a more deserving citizen for this award, and today I wish him the happiest of birthdays.

RECOGNIZING MARGIE WAKEHAM FOR THIRTY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Margie Wakeham for her 30 years of public service to the Orange County community. As the CEO of Families Forward for 26 years, Ms. Wakeham has led the fight for families in need to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through wraparound services that include career counseling, housing, and an onsite food pantry, among other vital programs.

As a young woman, Ms. Wakeham served as a group counselor to incarcerated youth, and later, an investigator for the juvenile court systems in San Diego and Orange Counties. Ever the trailblazer, Ms. Wakeham was an active mother who continued to be involved with local service organizations while raising her children. It was as a mother that she realized the profound need for school improvements, which inspired her candidacy and nearly two decades of service as an Irvine Unified School Board Member. As a champion for Irvine schools, Ms. Wakeham was moved to action when she learned of the serious struggles by families in her community due to food and housing insecurities. Through first-hand insight into the heartbreaking stories of children growing up alongside her own children, Ms. Wakeham knew action was needed.

In the early 1990s, Wakeham served as a board member of the previously titled organization, Irvine Temporary Housing, which had been helping shelter families since 1984. In 1993, Ms. Wakeham joined a team of distinguished leaders throughout the City of Irvine to save the nonprofit from closing its doors. Ms. Wakeham transformed the newly minted Families Forward into a major success, housing thousands of families in our community and scoring top ratings from nonprofit watchdogs for fiscal management. In many ways, the renaming of Families Forward resembles a tectonic shift in service delivery for Orange County. Over the last three years, an astounding 95 percent of the families served by Families Forward did not reappear in the homeless services provider system. This stands as a testament to its steady leadership under Ms. Wakeham.

When we end homelessness in Orange County, it will be because of the hard work and foundation-laying of community advocates like Ms. Wakeham. Today, we celebrate not only her success as a leader, but also the bright future Families Forward to the community. I am proud to recognize Ms. Margie Wakeham for her commitment to serving the 45th Congressional District of California.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, on Friday, November 15, 2019 I am not recorded on final passage of H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019. I was engaged in a conversation with a constituent from the state of Washington discussing the issue of homelessness and mistimed the vote for final passage although I was present.

The U.S. Export-Import Bank is critical to the Washington state economy and its workers, and I support its reauthorization. If I had been present on final passage, I would have voted: yes, on Roll Call 624.

HONORING KANSAS CITY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of clean water and the dedication of the members of the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to their role in serving our communities. Access to clean water has become a major national concern. With the increased awareness of how environmental changes affect our water supply, as seen in towns like Flint, Michigan, it becomes increasingly important that we value our water and ensure it's safe for the public. In that spirit, today we celebrate a department that has demonstrated commitment to serving their community.

The Kansas City BPU has received the "10-Year Directors Award" from the Partnership for Safe Water; a program developed by EPA, AWWA, and associated Partner organizations to guide water suppliers towards improving water quality by optimizing system operations. The Partnership is a voluntary self-assessment and optimization program for water treatment plants and distribution system operations. More than 300 utility subscribers, collectively serving more than 100 million people, are committed to the Partnership's goals of providing safe, high quality drinking water through achieving operational excellence in water treatment. Partnership members participate in a rigorous four-phase self-assessment and peer review process, developed by water utility optimization experts, and are recognized for their commitment to deliver safe water to their communities.

The BPU plant was one of a select group of utilities honored by the Partnership at the annual conference of the American Water Works Association, the largest and oldest worldwide organization dedicated to safe water. I am honored to recognize William Johnson, BPU General Manager, as well as staff as they celebrate this outstanding award.